FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

All sections must be addressed, or the application will be considered invalid

APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Rob Roberts, Trout Unlimited

Mailing Address: 312 N. Higgins Ave, Suite 200

City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59802

Telephone: 406-540-2944 E-mail: rob.roberts@tu.org

B. Contact Person (if different than applicant): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

C. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if different than applicant): Missoula County

Mailing Address: 199 West Pine Street

City: Missoula State: MT Zip: 59802

Telephone: 406-258-4655 E-mail: rob.roberts@tu.org

PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Name: Marshall Creek Culvert Removal and Habitat Restoration

River, stream, or lake: Marshall Creek

Location: Township: 13N Range: 18W Section: 6

Latitude: 46.918542 N Longitude: 113.909339 W *Within project (decimal degrees)*

County: Missoula

B. Purpose of Project: *(high level, focus on why the project is important)*

Marshall Creek has been a focus area for fisheries enhancement efforts by MFWP, TU and partners because of its location, high trout density and species composition, manageable size, land ownership pattern and perceived potential. Stream restoration and fish population monitoring work over the past two decades has focused on providing migratory connectivity to provide spawning and juvenile rearing nursery habitat for the river fishery. The current project complements these past fisheries enhancement projects (including fish screens, fish passage upgrades, instream habitat improvements, riparian fencing, etc,) which have been implemented in the Marshall Creek watershed over the past 25 years. Proposed activities will include the removal of a failing, perched culvert that limits fish passage and will reconnect a native WCT population with high genetic purity, as well as the restoration of ¼ mile of instream fisheries habitat through the addition of large and small woody debris.

C. Brief Project Description (attach additional information to end of application). Please include the anticipated construction schedule:

Marshall Creek is a second order tributary of the Clark Fork River located in Missoula County. The stream flows for approximately 4 miles through public and private land ownership and drains an area of approximately 6 square miles. Marshall Creek has been a focus area for fisheries enhancement efforts because of its location, high trout density and species composition, manageable size, land ownership pattern and perceived potential. Stream restoration and fish population monitoring work over the past two decades has focused on providing migratory connectivity to provide spawning and juvenile rearing nursery habitat for the Clark Fork River fishery. Despite high inherent productivity, initial stream survey work and monitoring identified a series of fisheries limiting factors including multiple fish passage impediments associated with road crossings. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Missoula County, later in partnership with Trout Unlimited (TU), invested greater than $500,000 and implemented more than a dozen projects between 2001 and 2020 to address these limiting factors – including the replacement of multiple undersized culverts on County Roads.

In 2023, Missoula County acquired the 480 acre Marshall Mountain Park following years of public input and planning, significant partner support and the use of voter-approved City and County open space bond funds. Located at the headwaters of Marshall Creek, next to Lolo National Forest Land, this site has been a recreation site for over 100 years. In the mid-1920s, the area was made popular as a backcountry ski and winter recreation destination by the Montana Mountaineers. From the 1950s through 2002 it operated as a commercial ski area. Despite its anthropogenic problems, the stream still supports an abundant resident westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) population in the headwaters and a migratory trout population downstream.

The upper reach of Marshall Creek supports high quality stream habitat and native Westslope Cutthroat. Most of this reach lies on the potential Marshall Mountain Park and other current Forest Service properties. Genetic analysis of WCT previously sampled on the Marshall Mountain property indicated that the population is genetically pure, with no detection of hybridization (WCT in downstream reaches have hybridized with Rainbow Trout). A survey of existing stream crossings on Marshall Creek in 2024 identified three culverts on Missoula County's Marshall Mountain Park that are undersized (insufficient for fish passage and hydrologic processes). The upper two culverts are necessary for long term access and park maintenance and will be replaced in future projects as part of the park's redevelopment and a long term, holistic fisheries restoration plan, which prioritizes reconnection of the native WCT population in the headwaters, as well as habitat improvement. The lowest culvert is a fish passage barrier, is no longer needed and is currently failing. The culvert will be permanently removed and stream channel restored by Trout Unlimited and Missoula County in 2026 as part of this grant. A design document showing existing conditions and the design plan is attached to this grant proposal. The project also includes a short reach of habitat restoration below the culvert removal project area. The addition of large and small woody debris – mimicking natural habitat conditions – will be placed using low tech methods with hand labor. Wood will be harvested from on site from piles of timber slash and downed trees from past logging operations and nearby tree stands on Missoula County property. Physical habitat improvements and protection of riparian resources will improve stream health and enhance resiliency of the native trout population through increased trout density, improved connectivity, and higher genetic diversity.

D. What was the cause of habitat degradation and how will the project correct the cause?

A streamlined habitat assessment on the entire reach was completed by MFWP staff in 2021. The upper half of this stream segment has been heavily altered by past land management and aquatic habitat quality has been negatively impacted. Specifically, the stream has been channelized through the developed portion of the Marshall Mountain Park property, resulting in a severely entrenched channel with limited riparian vegetation, no floodplain access and minimal instream habitat complexity (e.g., lack of pools and cover). The channel is also virtually devoid of large wood, which is a key component in providing natural channel complexity and diverse habitat. In summary, the current channel condition has limited carrying capacity for fish and other aquatic life (relative to natural condition). MFWP recommend a wide variety of actions, including focusing on mitigating culvert crossings, widening riparian buffers and installing fencing, enhancing BMPs that protect water quality, and improving instream habitat quality (complexity) where possible. The current proposal is considered a Phase I of activities on Marshall Mountain Park, focusing on permanently removing a known fish passage barrier and improving habitat conditions on the lower end of the Marshall Mountain Park.

E. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated (project extent): 1,500 feet

Length/size of impact, if larger than project extent (e.g., stream miles opened): 2 miles

F. Project Budget Summary:

Grant Request (Dollars):	**$**	**12,930**
Matching Dollars:	**$**	**4,000**
Matching In-Kind Services:*	**$**	**8,890**

**salaries of government employees are not considered matching contributions*

Other Contributions (not used as match)	**$**	
Total Project Cost:	**$**	**25,820**

G. Attach itemized (line item) budget – *see budget template*

H. Attach project location map(s) that include:

- [x] Extent of the project, including context (relation to major landmark or town)
- [x] Indication of public and private property
- [ ] Riparian buffer locations and widths (if applicable) and grazing locations

I. Attach project plans:

- [x] Detailed sketches or plan views with the location and proposed restoration
- [x] Pre-project photographs (GPS location strongly recommended)
- [ ] If water leasing or water salvage is involved, attach a supplemental questionnaire (*https://myfwp.mt.gov/getRepositoryFile?objectID=36110*)

J. Attach support letters or statements of (e.g., landowner consent, community or public support). For FWP statement, attach provided template. List any other project partners:

Restoration priorities on County lands in upper Marshall Creek were developed collaboratively among FWP, Trout Unlimited, and Missoula County staff. Missoula County and MFWP letter attached.

. **MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING** (attach additional information to end of application):

A. A 20-year maintenance commitment is required*. Please confirm that you will ensure this protection and describe your approach. Attach any relevant maintenance plans. Yes [x] No [ ]

**If it is a water leasing project, describe the length of the agreement.*

Missoula County has a dedicated Marshall Mountain Park Ranger and a long term plan for area maintenance and management.

B. Will grazing be part of or adjacent to the project? If so, describe or attach land management plans, including short term and long term grazing regimes. If the landowner is not the applicant, please describe their involvement in the project. *If you want assistance with grazing plan development, note your need.*

No.

C. Will the project be monitored to determine if goals were met? If so, what are the short-term and long-term plans to assess benefits and lessons learned? Were pre-project data collected? Will monitoring information be shared with FWP?

Yes, MFWP will update fisheries and aquatic sampling to verify species composition and WCT genetic status relative to current fish passage barriers.

. **PROJECT BENEFITS** (attach additional information to end of application):

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?

Westslope Cutthroat Trout. Genetic analysis of WCT previously sampled on the Marshall Mountain property indicated that the population is genetically pure, with no detection of hybridization

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?

The current FFIP proposal includes Phase I of a long term plan identified on upper Marshall Creek (area of new County property). These projects include removal of a partial fish passage barrier (perched, undersized stream crossing) and installation of instream habitat (LWD). The abandoned stream crossing currently acts as a significant barrier to upstream passage and failure risk at most flow levels. Stream reaches designated for LWD additions are almost completely void of habitat complexity. Assessment of similar LWD projects on lower Marshall Creek by MFWP have demonstrated a 50-100% increase in WCT abundance post-project based on past FWP monitoring efforts.

C. What is the expected improvement to fish populations, both short term and long term? How might the project translate to angler success?

This population represents one of the larger pure WCT isolated populations in the Missoula area and is the best potential isolate donor source for the new WCT brood being developed by MFWP. The current proposal addresses known limiting factors and restoration priorities in the upper portion of Marshall Creek where only nonhybridized WCT reside. Project activities will provide an immediate and long term reconnection of fish passage for WCT above the current culvert barrier. The habitat improvement project will result in improved stream condition for WCT in terms of spawning and rearing habitat - similar LWD projects on lower Marshall Creek have demonstrated a 50-100% increase in WCT abundance post-project based on past MFWP monitoring efforts.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how? Is public fishing allowed onsite? Is it allowed by permission? If not, describe how the public would benefit.

Yes, public fishing is allowed onsite. The property is managed by Missoula County as part of the Marshall Mountain Park. Aside from the benefit to fish habitat from this project, future public improvements at the park by Missoula County will include new parking areas and trail access.

E. Aside from angling, what local or large-scale public benefits will be realized from this project?

Marshall Creek is considered to be an important spawning tributary for the Clark Fork River. Improvements made to Marshall Creek will result in improved WCT population and outmigration to the Clark Fork River.

F. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No.

G. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site (including paid access)? Explain:

No.

H. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?

No.

ach approved project applicant must enter into a written agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife & arks specifying terms and duration of the project. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits ior to project construction. A competitive bid process must be followed when using State funds.

AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

pplicant Signature: Rob R Date: 11.10.2025

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid. Please see the example budget sheet for clarification.

PROJECT COSTS					GRANT REQUEST AND FUNDING			
Work Items (Itemize by Category)	**Number of Units**	**Unit Description***	**Cost/Unit**	**Total Cost**	**FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST**	**Matching Contributions (Cash or In-Kind)*** **	**Other Contributions (Funds not used as match)**	**Total Funding**
Units = feet, hours, cubic yards, etc. Do not use lump sum unless necessary.								
Personnel								
Survey				$ -				$ -
Design	10	HR		1,000.00		1,000.00		$ 1,000.00
Engineering								$ -
Permitting	10	HR		1,000.00		1,000.00		$ 1,000.00
Oversight	30	HR		3,000.00		3,000.00		$ 3,000.00
Maintenance**				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 5,000.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00
Travel								
Mileage	200	Miles	$0.70	$ 140.00		140.00		$ 140.00
Per diem				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 140.00		$ 140.00	$ -	$ 140.00
Construction Materials								
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
Construction BMPs/Temp Roads	1	Each	$1,000.00	$1,000.00		$1,000.00		$ 1,000.00
Dewatering channel/pumps	1	Each	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	1,000.00			$ 1,000.00
Earthworks/ Rough grading	150	CY	$4.20	$ 630.00	630.00			$ 630.00
Culvert Removal/Haul	1	Each	$500.00	$ 500.00		500.00		$ 500.00
12-18" Rock	30	CY	$45.00	$ 1,350.00		1,350.00		$ 1,350.00
Cobble/Small Rock	10	CY	$25.00	$ 250.00	250.00			$ 250.00
Step Pool Construction	6	Each	$1,200.00	$ 7,200.00	7,200.00			$ 7,200.00
Streambank Reconstruction	100	LF	$42.00	$ 4,200.00		4,200.00		$ 4,200.00
Revegetation/ transplants	20	Each	$25.00	$ 500.00	500.00			$ 500.00
Microtopography /Final grading	1	Acre	$500.00	$ 500.00	500.00			$ 500.00
Floodplain Seeding	1	Acre	$300.00	$ 300.00	300.00			$ 300.00
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 17,430.00	$ 10,380.00	$ 7,050.00	$ -	$ 17,430.00
Equipment, Labor, and Mobilization								
				$ -				$ -
Mobilization	1	LS	$1,500.00	$ 1,500.00	1,500.00			$ 1,500.00
Labor	50	HR	$35.00	$ 1,750.00	1,050.00	700.00		$ 1,750.00
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
				$ -				$ -
			Sub-Total	$ 3,250.00	$ 2,550.00	$ 700.00	$ -	$ 3,250.00
			OVERALL TOTALS	$ 25,820.00	$ 12,930.00	$ 12,890.00	$ -	$ 25,820.00

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

**For projects that include a maintenance request, it cannot exceed 10% of the total project cost.

***Match can include in-kind materials or labor. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used) can be noted below. Do not use government salaries as match.

Additional budget detail:

APPLICATION MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

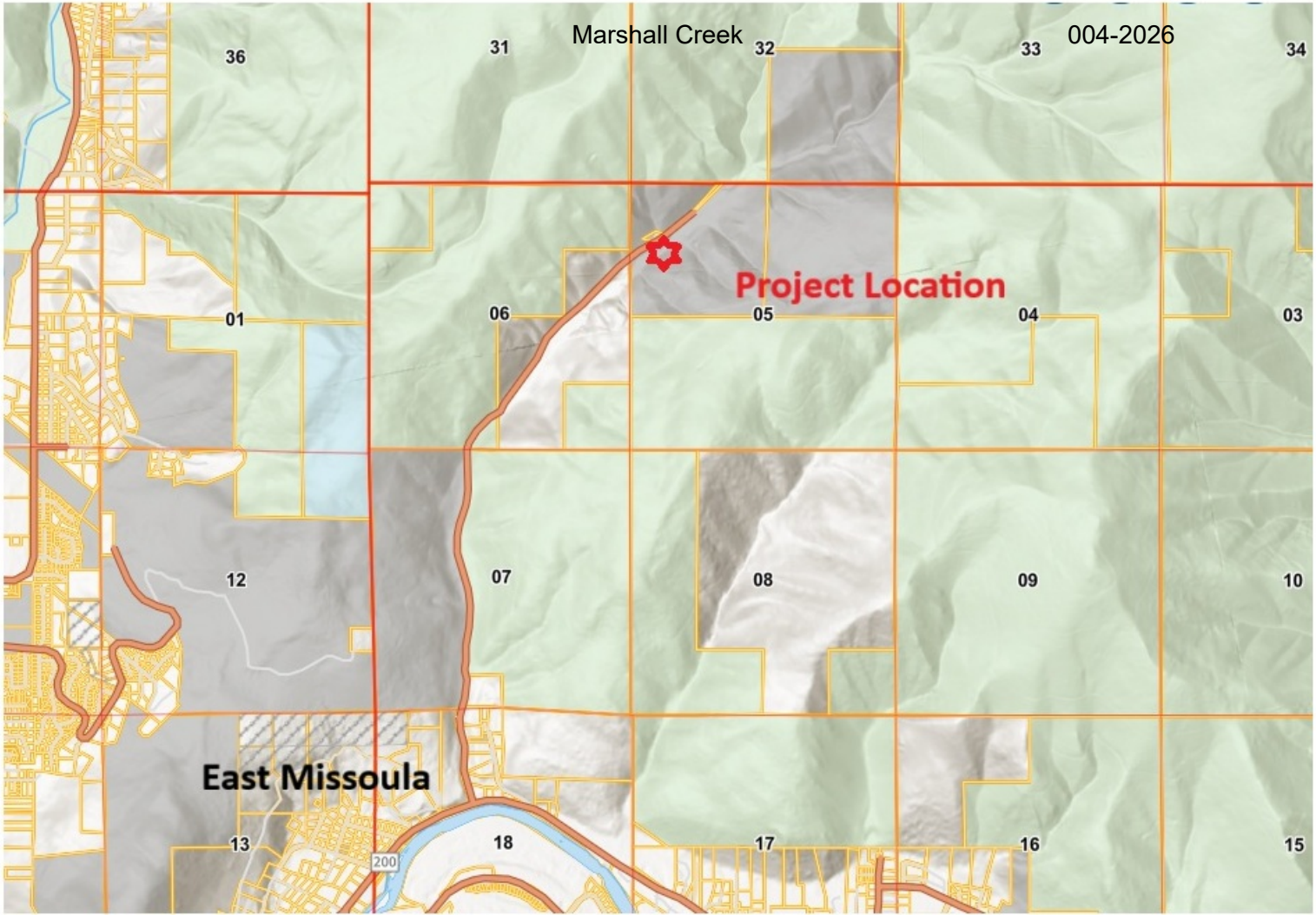
Total should equal match listed above; do not include requested funds

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Trout Unlimited	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 9,000.00	Yes
		$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 9,000.00	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Total should equal other contributions listed above; these are funds not specically matched to the Future Fisheries application

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND	CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Missoula County	$ 3,890.00	$ -	$ 3,890.00	Yes
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
	$ -	$ -	$ -	
TOTALS	$ 3,890.00	$ -	$ 3,890.00	


Marshall Creek
004-2026
Project Location
East Missoula
36
31
32
33
34
01
06
05
04
03
12
07
08
09
10
13
18
17
16
15
200

Marshall Mountain Park

Draft Fisheries Enhancement
TU, MT FWP, Missoula County

Marshall Creek

004-2026

Legend

- Instream Rest. - Riparian Cedar Rocks
- Low Tech - Instream Restoration
- Marshall Mountain
- 2 Remove culvert barrier
- 3 Remove Culvert Barrier
- 1 Remove culvert/pond - Replace crossing

1 Remove culvert/pond - Replace crossing

2 Remove culvert barrier

3 Remove Culvert Barrier

Project Area

Google Earth

400 ft

Marshall Creek
Culvert Removal and Restoration Design

Rob Roberts
Senior Project Manager
Trout Unlimited
September 2025

Marshall Creek
Culvert Removal and Restoration
Preliminary Design

Introduction

Marshall Creek is a second order tributary of the Clark Fork River located near East Missoula. Marshall Creek has been a focus area for fisheries enhancement efforts because of its location, high trout density and species composition, manageable size, land ownership pattern and perceived potential. The stream supports abundant trout that are essentially managed as two populations: (1) the migratory population occupying the lower two miles of stream above the Clark Fork River confluence and (2) the upper, stream-resident population that exists above a series of fish passage barriers and continues to be genetically 'pure' (non-hybridized). Most of this upper reach is on lands managed by Missoula County as part of the Marshall Mountain Park, as well as current US Forest Service properties.

There are three undersized culverts on Marshall Creek within the Marshall Mountain Park. The upper two culverts are necessary for long term access and park maintenance and will be replaced in the future as part of the park's redevelopment and a long term, holistic fisheries restoration plan. The lowest culvert has been abandoned and is currently failing. The culvert is a 4 foot diameter concrete culvert, previously used for snowmaking operations on the lower ski slopes of the former Marshall Mountain Ski Area. The culvert has two sections: 1) a 10 foot section that is still intact, and 2) a 6 foot section that has been undermined and is falling in the creek.

Trout Unlimited will be working with Missoula County to remove the lower culvert and restore Marshall Creek through this former stream crossing. Approximately 100 feet of the stream will be restored during this activity. The ultimate objective of this project is to re-establish a functional stream channel including diverse and quality instream habitat, stable streambanks, and a connected floodplain in portions of this site – similar to less disturbed stream channel patterns and functions in reference areas downstream on Marshall Creek. Efforts to improve the stream channel and floodplain habitat is intended to benefit riparian vegetation, fish passage, and westslope cutthroat trout production in this section of stream.

Reference Channel

Existing Channel

Survey Data

A longitudinal profile of the project areas was completed for approximately 100 feet with multiple cross sections in the disturbed/existing channel. A reference area was located downstream on the stream channel. The photos above show the typical conditions for each section. The table below shows some basic parameters of the 1) Reference channel, 2) Upstream Channel in the project area, and 3) Downstream Channel in the project area.

Parameter	Reference Channel	Upstream Channel	Downstream Channel
Slope (%)	2.8	2.5	5
Sinuosity	1.2	1.3	1.1
Bankfull Width (ft)	8	6	8
Bankfull Depth (ft)	1.5	1.5	2

Due to the location of the culvert and historical aggradation of streambed material, the upstream channel section has braided and has a lower slope than other reaches of Marshall Creek. The sinuosity is also higher. The downstream channel appears to mimic the reference area fairly well, showing similar values for slope, sinuosity and bankfull dimensions – although it is somewhat entrenched due to the valley confinement posed by the fill material and a berm that crosses the floodplain.

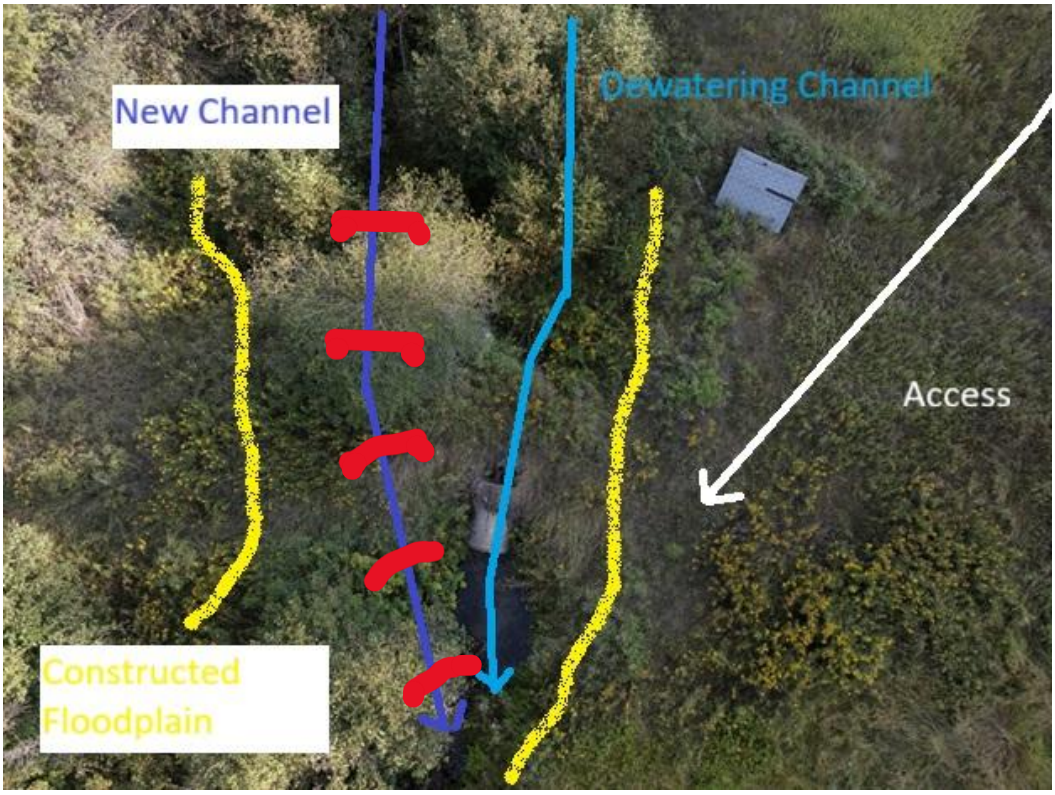
Design Approach

A short reach of approximately 100 feet on the upstream and downstream end of the culvert will need to be reconstructed to deal with slope transitions and historical fill in the floodplain area to achieve a constant slope of nearly 6 percent and tie-in with the existing channel. The stream channel will be realigned for approximately 40 feet upstream of the culvert location to facilitate transitions in slope and deal with the braiding of the channel caused by the culvert.

Parameter	Design Channel
Slope (%)	6
Sinuosity	1.1
Bankfull Width (ft)	8
Bankfull Depth (ft)	1.5

Five instream grade control structures using semi-angular rock acquired from onsite and imported will be installed every 10 feet through this reach to prevent channel downcutting, maintain slope and created pools for energy dispersal and fish habitat. Rock will be a minimum of 1 foot diameter and maximum of 3 foot diameter for grade control structures. The project design acknowledges that runs and glides will naturally exist and transition into or out of the other two and will become more defined as natural processes return to the project reach.

Choosing channel design values of 8 feet for bankfull width and 1.5 for bankfull depth appear reasonable, given that riparian vegetation should grow well with the presence of consistent streamflow and narrow the stream over time. In addition, a minimum floodplain width of 10 feet on both sides will be established as needed in order to address any historically modified surface features. Sod mats and clump transplants will be removed from the proposed channel alignment and placed along the channel margins to accelerate bank vegetation growth. The planview below shows the overall project site plan and following section discusses the overall work plan.



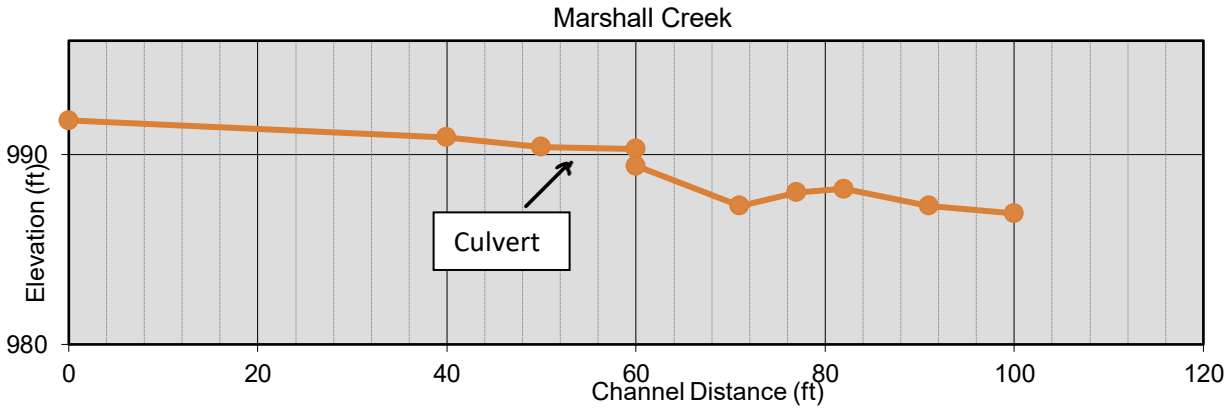
Workplan

The following represents a workplan for the culvert removal project, generally in chronological order:

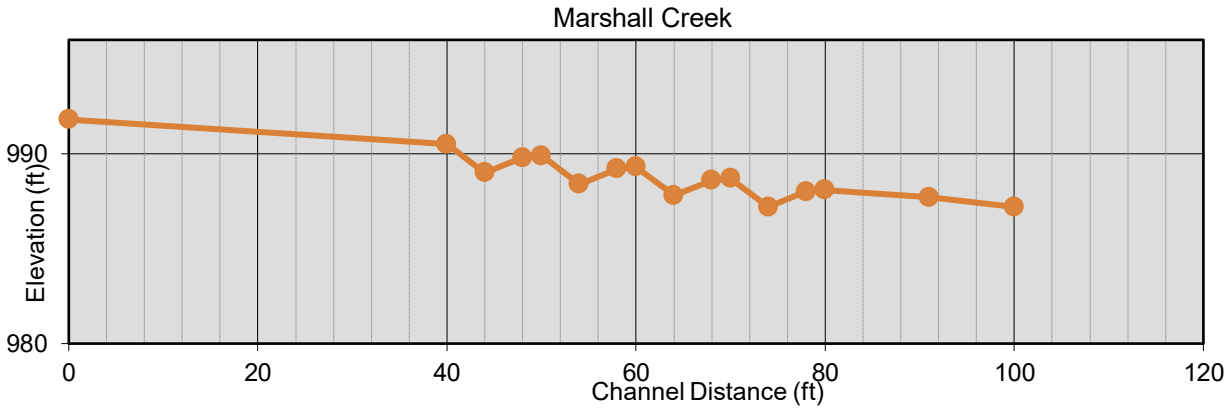
1. Mobilize equipment to site and set up grade control and staking.
2. Clear staging area and vegetation from channel alignment as needed.
3. Remove the lower section of culvert from Marshall Creek and haul offsite.
4. Prepare dewatering system by installing temporary diversion upstream of the culvert and using an existing high flow channel on the east side of the floodplain for the dewatering channel. Set up coffer dams below culvert to isolate the new channel alignment from the active dewatering channel. The baseflow of Marshall Creek is approximately 3 cfs.
5. Build grade control and step pools in the new channel alignment in the dry, starting on downstream end – approximately 50 feet.
6. Rough in channel alignment above culvert in existing floodplain for approximately 50 feet using on site materials and imported rock as needed.
7. Install clump transplants and sod mats and create floodplain roughness along channel margins and streambanks.
8. Remove upper temporary diversion and reconnect Marshall Creek into new channel alignment.
9. Remove the remaining culvert section, haul culvert offsite and regrade floodplain.
10. Complete downstream tie in of new channel alignment and left streambank immediately below the former culvert crossing using clump transplants and sod mats.
11. Remove all construction materials, scarify and seed disturbed areas and demobilize equipment from site.

The chart below shows the existing long profile of Marshall Creek in the project area, and the proposed longitudinal profile per the design plan.

Existing Longitudinal Profile



Design Longitudinal Profile



Materials

The following materials are expected to be used during the culvert removal and restoration project:

Item	**Quantity**	**Notes**
Large Rock	30 cubic yards	Imported
Cobble/Small Rock	10 cubic yards	Imported
General fill	150 cubic yards	Removed from site
2 Concrete Culvert Sections	16 feet	Removed from site

Example Photos – Step Pool Construction

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Future Fisheries Improvement Program

Appendix: FWP Statement

Project Title: Upper Marshall Creek Barrier Removal & Habitat Enhancement

Please describe the potential impact of the project, including the priorities of the Fisheries Division and the importance to Montana's anglers.

The proposed project occurs on upper Marshall Creek, a small tributary of the Clark Fork River near East Missoula. Marshall Creek is an extremely productive stream that supports large runs of migratory W. Cutthroat Trout (WCT) and *Oncorhynchus spp*. hybrids (WCT x RBT), as well as stream-resident, non-hybridized WCT that reside in the upper drainage above a permanent barrier. This population represents one of the larger pure WCT isolate populations in the Missoula area and is the best potential isolate donor source for the new WCT brood being developed by FWP. The current proposal addresses known limiting factors and restoration priorities in the upper portion (above the barrier) where only nonhybridized WCT reside.

Numerous fisheries enhancement projects (>10), including fish screens, fish passage upgrades, instream habitat improvements, riparian fencing, etc, have been implemented in the Marshall Creek watershed over the past 25 years and many of these were funded through the Future Fisheries Improvement Program. These projects focused on the middle and lower portions of the drainage that act as important spawning and rearing areas for fluvial trout that out-migrate to the Calrk Fork River fishery in the Missoula valley. Upcoming restoration priorities are planned in the upper watershed to benefit the stream-resident WCT population described above. This population acts as a genetic stronghold for WCT and provides limited recruitment to the river fishery downstream.

Restoration priorities on County lands in upper Marshall Creek were developed collaboratively among FWP, Trout Unlimited, and Missoula County staff. All these groups support the proposed actions as they are incorporated into planning for the recently acquired Missoula County property (formerly Marshall Mountain Ski area). Native fisheries and conservation work are priorities for all involved with these properties.

The current FFIP proposal includes phase I of the projects identified on upper Marshall Creek (lower reach of new County property). These projects include removal of a partial fish passage barrier (perched, undersized stream crossing) installation of instream habitat (LWD), and riparian buffer enhancement. The abandoned stream crossing currently acts as a significant barrier to upstream passage and failure risk at most flow levels. Stream reaches designated for LWD additions are almost completely void of habitat complexity. Assessment of similar LWD projects on lower Marshall Creek have demonstrated a 50-100% increase in WCT abundance post-project based on past FWP monitoring efforts.

Name of FWP Biologist W. Ladd Knotek Date: 11/6/2025

Please attach to the FFIP application and materials and submit according to listed deadlines.

Lands, Culture and Recreation

Mailing Address: 200 W Broadway St
Physical Address: 127 E Main St
Missoula, MT 59802
P: 406.258.4655
E: jlee@missoulacounty.us

Missoula COUNTY

11/13/2025

Re: Future Fisheries Improvement Program – Letter of Support

Dear Future Fisheries Citizen Review Panel:

I am writing on behalf of Missoula County to express our commitment to support and collaborate with Trout Unlimited on this initial phase of the Marshall Creek Restoration project at Marshall Mountain Park.

Missoula County is transforming the former Marshall Mountain Ski Area into a year-round public recreation space, Marshall Mountain Park (MMP), guided by extensive community input and strong local partnerships. Publicly acquired in 2024, MMP is at a critical tipping point. The recent public acquisition has unlocked long-awaited opportunity, but surging public use is outpacing aging, insufficient infrastructure.

Missoula County is currently pursuing grant funding opportunities to modernize the base area. Timing these infrastructure improvements with Marshall Creek restoration activities ensures the next chapter of people powered recreation at Marshall Mountain keeps the interface between outdoor recreation and fisheries habitat front of mind.

Marshall Creek which runs through MMP contains a genetically pure strain of west-slope cutthroat trout and represents a very productive fishery on a regional scale. Stream restoration practices at MMP will focus on removing barriers and flow control structures, which will improve habitat connectivity for fish and restore stream form and function. The grant request and local match reflects only a portion of a greater funding package being designed for the full, stream restoration project scope across the Marshall Mountain Park property.

Missoula County is eager to implement this initial phase of stream restoration activities in partnership with Trout Unlimited. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Jackson Lee

Jackson Lee
Marshall Mountain Park Manager
Missoula County Lands, Culture and Recreation